

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An animal lifting and supporting device comprising a frame member having a lifting section and a rear support section,

a support member depending from the frame member at the rear support section, the support member being constructed so as to project between the hind legs of an animal to support the ~~underneath of the rear of the animal~~ underneath its pelvis, and

a pair of hip supports arranged to depend from the frame member so as to provide support via the hip bones at the opposite sides of the animal, the hip supports being located intermediate the lifting section and the rear support section,

wherein the arrangement is such that the animal ~~may be~~ is raised or supported ~~in cantilever fashion~~ by lifting or supporting the lifting section to provide a cantilever action through the support member so that a substantial portion of the lift or support is taken under the pelvis of the animal.

2. (Original) A device according to claim 1 wherein the support member comprises a generally downwardly directed portion and a leg portion extending generally at an angle to the downwardly directed portion.

3. (Original) A device according to claim 2 wherein the angle is between 75 degrees and 135 degrees.

4. (Original) A device according to claim 2 wherein the leg portion comprises a support seat located to support a cow in a region between the cow's anus and udder.

5. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 4 comprising a support member ~~adjustment means~~adjustor for adjusting the height of the support seat relative to the frame member.

6. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1 comprising a hinge ~~means~~ pivotally joining an upper portion of each hip support to the frame member.

7. (Original) A device according to claim 6 wherein a lower portion of each hip support comprises a generally trough shaped region, with the bottom of the trough shaped region being shaped so as to underlie and support the hip bone of a cow or other animal.

8. (Original) A device according to claim 7 wherein the trough shaped region comprises a U-section.

9. (Original) A device according to claim 7 wherein the hip supports are held splayed apart on opposite sides of the support frame by a hip adjustment member joining both hip supports.

10. (Original) A device according to claim 9 wherein the hip adjustment member comprises a rod provided with screw threads at opposed ends of the rod adapted to screw into screw threaded sockets attached to each of the hip supports whereby the splay at the hip supports may be adjusted by rotating the rod.

11. (Original) A device according to claim 10 wherein the rod is held in a tubular member extending transverse to the frame member and the tubular member is pivotally attached to the frame member.

12. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1 comprising a loop member secured to the lifting section.